

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1376
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Jesse B. Register on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, having served with distinction for thirty-seven years as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Jesse B. Register is one such estimable person who will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity, Dr. Register has performed his duties with uncommon dedication and expertise while serving as Superintendent of Hamilton County Schools; and

WHEREAS, earning the respect and admiration of students, parents, and teachers alike for the unsurpassed quality of his service, Dr. Register has worked diligently at Hamilton County Schools, supervising curriculum development, implementing school improvement plans, organizing various initiatives and committees, garnering government grants for educational improvements, and supervising school affairs; and

WHEREAS, before serving with the Hamilton County School System, Jesse Register worked as an English Teacher at Indian Trail Elementary School from 1968-1969, Assistant Principal at Indian Trail Elementary School from 1969-1971, Principal at A. T. Allen Elementary School from 1971-1972, Principal at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School from 1972-1981, Assistant Superintendent over Instruction and Pupil Services at Cabarrus County Schools from 1981-1986, Assistant Superintendent over School Operations at Cabarrus County Schools from 1986-

1988, Superintendent at Cabarrus County Schools from 1989-1991, and Superintendent at Iredell-Statesville Schools from 1991-1996; and

WHEREAS, born on October 16, 1946, Jesse Register graduated from Garinger High School in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, a model student in his youth, Dr. Register distinguished himself academically at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Education degree; and

WHEREAS, as he advanced in his career, Jesse Register never failed to remember the immense value of education; he obtained an Advanced School Administrator's Certificate from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and earned his Doctorate in Education Administration from Duke University; he also attended the Change Leadership Program at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Dr. Register successfully unified and merged Chattanooga Public Schools, an urban, poor, and predominately minority school district of 20,000 students, and Hamilton County Schools, a rural, middle class, primarily white school district of 21,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Register was instrumental in the creation of district-wide academic standards for students; the development of a comprehensive pupil assignment plan; the receipt of the first of three United States Department of Education magnet school grants; the adoption of a comprehensive facilities development plan resulting in the construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities; and a transition from adversarial to interest-based collaborative bargaining between the school district and the teacher's union group; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jesse Register played an integral role in garnering a Carnegie Corporation Grant, Schools for a New Society, for systematic high school reform; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County School System is one of only eight school systems nation-wide to receive this grant, which has resulted in a single path diploma requiring rigorous academic core requirements coupled with a system of academies and small learning communities focused on specific professional or career fields; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Register has served as Chairman of the Coalition for Tennessee's Future and as a member of the Governor's Task Force on Salary Equity and the Governor's Basic Education Plan Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, donating his time and many talents to numerous charitable, civic, and professional organizations and activities, Dr. Register is a board member of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, the Public Education Foundation, the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Association, the Hamilton County Schools Fund for Excellence, the Westside Community Development Corporation, and the United Way and a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the American Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Metropolitan Area Schools System, the Southeast District Superintendents, the Allied Arts Board of Directors, the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, and the Horace Mann League; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, he was named the 2001 Tennessee Parent Teacher Association Outstanding Superintendent of the Year and the Tennessee School Plant Management Association Superintendent of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Jesse Register is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Paula, and their three sons and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is an active member of the Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, which he has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jesse Register exemplifies the epitome of the dedicated educator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Register has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, faculty, staff, and students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we thank Dr. Jesse B. Register for his many years of dedicated service to the students of Chattanooga and Hamilton County and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.